

## **Introduction**

The Budget in Brief summarizes the adopted Catawba County Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget in the amount of \$214,699,319. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2014, and ends June 30, 2015. The Board of Commissioners began the budget process by establishing goals and objectives for the County to achieve. The budget was presented to the Board on May 21, 2014. Departmental hearings were held with the Board on May 27, 2014, with a Public Hearing on May 29, 2014, and final budget adoption on June 2, 2014. If you would like to view the budget in its entirety, please visit our [web site](#) at or the Budget Office located in the Government Center in Newton, North Carolina.

## **Board of Commissioners Goals for Fiscal Year 2014/15**

1. In partnership with the private sector, support a coordinated effort to create jobs and property tax base by investing in infrastructure, the development of the County's quality of place and educational opportunities. Specific strategies include:
  - a. Facilitate spec building space in order to enhance the EDC's recruitment efforts for jobs and increased tax base.
  - b. Continuously monitor County regulations to ensure they support orderly growth and business development.
  - c. Partner with the private sector and municipalities to focus on a framework to increase small and/or entrepreneurial businesses.
  - d. Partner with the private and public sectors to implement Innovate Catawba.
2. Increase citizens' awareness of County programs and services and promote healthy activities throughout the County by strengthening communications and outreach to citizens.
3. To ensure transportation connectivity of Catawba County to the rest of the region, continue to advocate for completion of the widening of Highway 16.
4. Support the three school systems and Catawba Valley Community College as they work to increase the educational attainment level in Catawba County.

### **Budget Highlights**

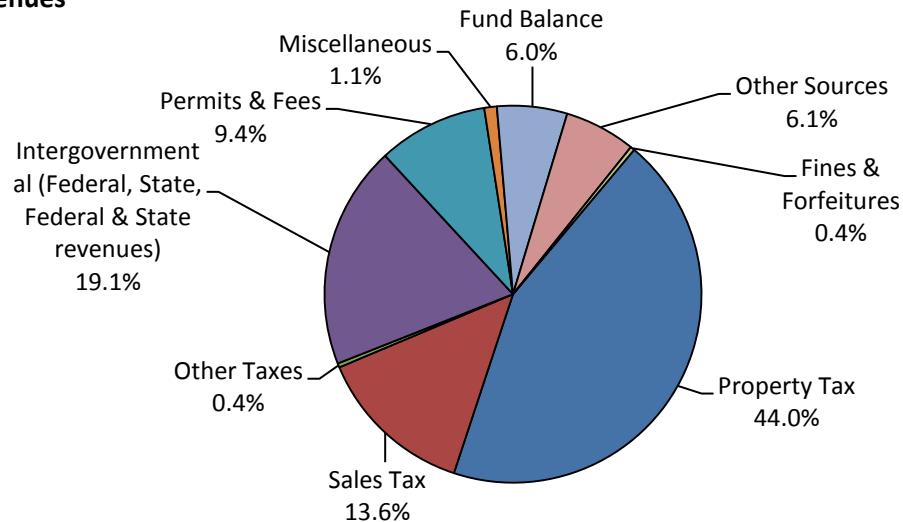
The approved budget is \$214,699,319 and includes a tax rate of 53 cents.

- The tax rate of \$0.53 per \$100 of valuation is the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest tax rate of the 27 urban counties -- those with a population over 100,000 -- and the 27<sup>th</sup> lowest of all 100 counties in North Carolina.
- The County's investment in funding 51.5 percent of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) continues to benefit the local economy. In 2013, economic development projects resulted in the announcement of over \$271 million of new investment and 840 jobs added or announced.
- The budget continues to reserve the ¼ cent sales tax toward the Justice/Public Safety Center expansion, water and sewer infrastructure, economic development, and schools current expense.
- In Fiscal Year 2014/15, per pupil funding is increased from \$1,461 to \$1,475 (1 percent).
- The budget increases Catawba Valley Community College's funding by \$38,000 (1 percent) to \$3,838,000, maintaining the County's community college funding rank from 16<sup>th</sup> out of 58 North Carolina community colleges.
- The budget invests in public safety by funding two new road patrol deputies and two new detention officers in the Sheriff's Office, while funding two new paramedics in Emergency Services
- The budget funds jail diversion efforts (Pretrial Services, Justice System Coordination, and Electronic House Arrest) with an anticipated return on investment of \$10 savings for every \$1 spent.
- The budget eliminates, unfunds, or reduces the hours of eight Public Health positions including an Accounting Specialist, Charge Nurse, and Office Support Specialist.

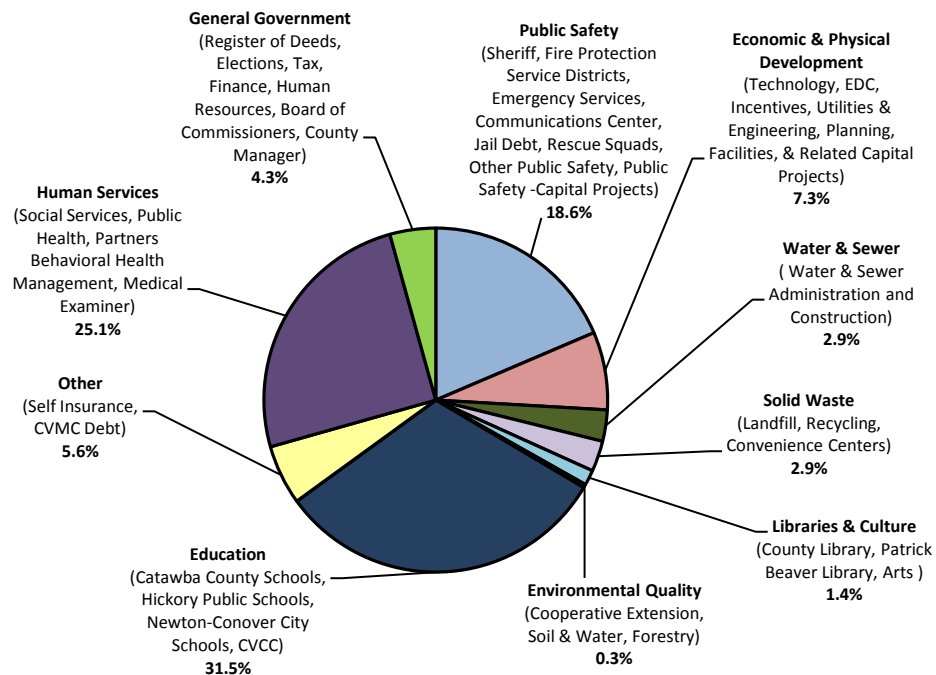
## Revenue and Expenditures

Catawba County property taxpayers will continue to enjoy one of the lowest property tax rates in the State next year. The budget establishes a rate of 53 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which will yield revenue of \$85.67million. The most recent analysis by the Local Government Commission shows that Catawba County has one of the lowest per capita property tax levies in the State.

### 2014/15 Revenues

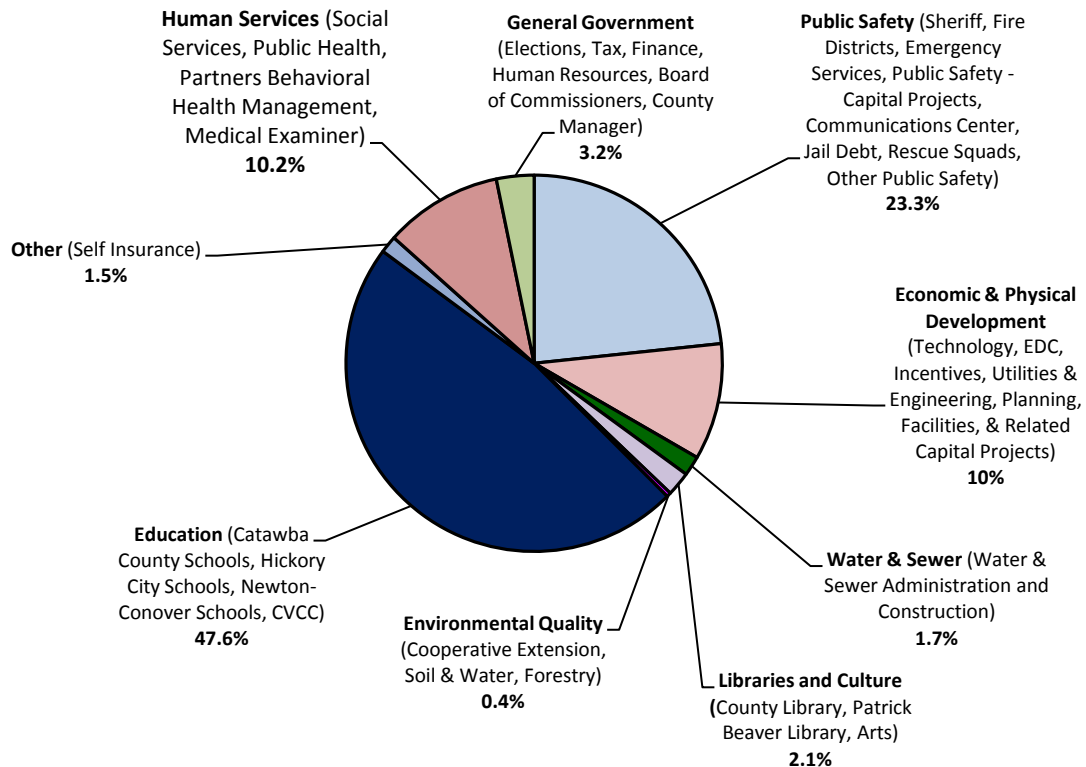


### 2014/15 Expenditures



## 2014/15 Expenditures - Local Funds

When only County funds (Property and Sales Tax) are taken into account, education is clearly the County's top priority for funding.

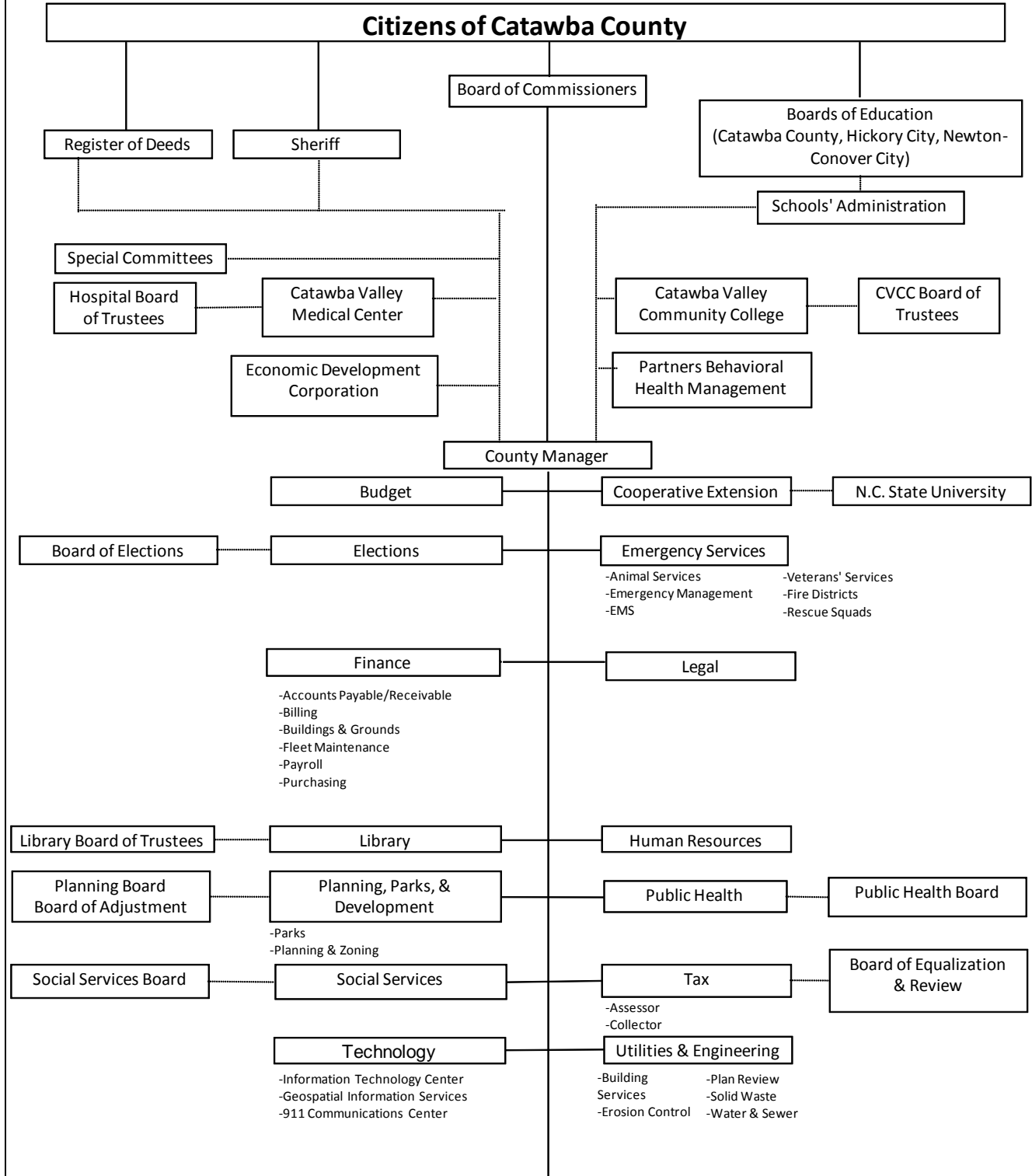


### **Catawba County Fast Facts**

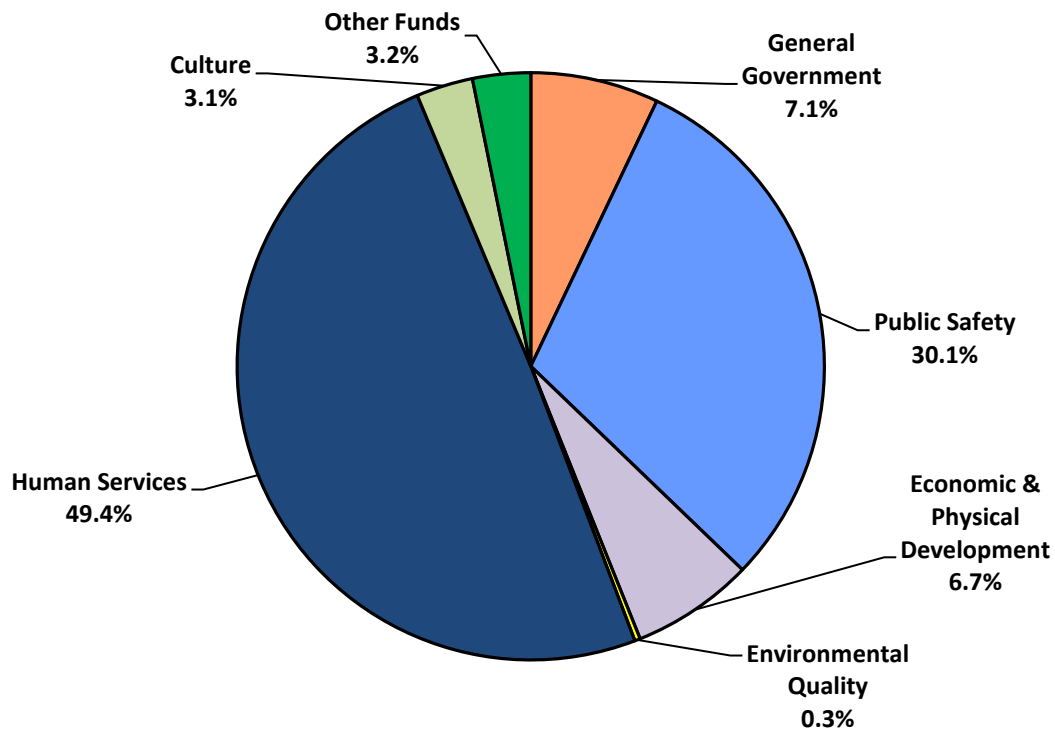
- Estimated Population: 154,810
- Median Age: 39.7
- Median Household Income: \$43,657
- School Enrollment: 24,425
- Unemployment Rate: 7.2 percent (May 2014)
- Property Tax Rate: 53 cents/\$100 valuation
- Property Tax Base: \$16.3 billion
- Principal Taxpayers:
  - Apple, Inc.
  - Duke Energy Corporation
  - Target Corporation
  - GKN Driveline Newton, LLC.
  - CommScope, Inc.
  - Draka Comteq Americas, Inc.
  - Amireit Inc/American Medical (Frye Regional Medical Center)
  - Corning Cable Systems
  - Hickory Springs Mfg. Co., Inc.
  - Valley Hills Mall, LLC

*For more County facts and figures please visit the [Catawba County Performance Dashboard](#).*

## Catawba County Organizational Structure



### Percentage of FTEs by Function



**Catawba County Commissioners**

Kitty W. Barnes, Chair  
C. Randall Isenhower, Vice Chair  
Lynn Mull Lail  
Barbara G. Beatty  
Dan A. Hunsucker

**County Manager**

J. Thomas Lundy, 828-465-8201  
tlundy@catawbacountync.gov

**Budget Staff**

Jennifer S. Mace, Budget Manager  
jmace@catawbacountync.gov, 828-465-8207

Paarth D. Mehta, Budget Analyst II  
pmehta@catawbacountync.gov, 828-465-8208

Barron S. Monroe II, Budget Analyst II  
bmonroe@catawbacountync.gov, 828-465-8498

If you have questions regarding Catawba County's Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget, please contact the County Budget Office at (828) 465-8207.



**Catawba County Budget Office**  
P.O. Box 398, 100A South West Blvd.  
Newton, North Carolina 28658  
828/465-8208  
828/465-8392, fax  
[www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)